

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /056 W
----- 052311

R 020615Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3198

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3352

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI SN

SUBJ: PROPOSED AIR/SEA DEFENSE EXERCISE (MERLIAN) WITH SINGAPORE

REF: A. STATE 000538

B. SINGAPORE 5103, DECEMBER 26, 1974

C. JAKARTA 15353, DECEMBER 24, 1974

D. KUALA LUMPUR 6089, DECEMBER 23, 1974

E. STATE 278670, DECEMBER 20, 1974

F. USDAO SINGAPORE D&G 120710Z, DEC. 1974 (NOTAL)

1. REF E ADVISED THERE WAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO PROPOSED EXERCISE, BUT STATED FINAL CONCURRENCE COULD NOT BE GRANTED UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING DETAILS OF EXERCISE WAS RECEIVED. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DETAILS OF THIS EXERCISE HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH CINCPAC AS "SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE". AS REPORTED REF F EXERCISE IS STRICTLY BILATERAL INVOLVING ONLY USN AND UNITS OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE AND NAVY
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AND DOES NOT INVOLVE THE INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE COMMAND (THE ONLY EXISTING INSTRUMENT OF THE FIVE POWER DEFENSE AGREEMENT.)
REF A AGREED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (REFS C AND D) OF EMBASSIES JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR GOS

RATHER THAN USG TO NOTIFY INDONESIANS AND FPDA PARTNERS.
HOWEVER, REF A SUGGESTED EMBASSY REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING SUBJECT
OF NOTIFICATION WITH GOS UNTIL PLANS FOR EXERCISE WERE MORE
DEFINITE.

2. AS RESULT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS/COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DAO,
MIN DEF AND CINCPAC, FOLLOWING PLANS HAS
BEEN DEVELOPED. EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT TIME (PROBABLY
OCTOBER 1975) WHEN CARRIER TASK GROUP PASSES THROUGH SOUTH
CHINA SEA ON WAY TO INDIAN OCEAN. THE EXERCISE WILL
TAKE PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS (OUTSIDE WATERS CLAIMED BY
EITHER MALAYSIA OR INDONESIA) ABOUT 200-400 MILES NNE OF SIN-
GAPORE.

3. THE CONCEPT INVOLVES THE SINGAPORE AIR FORCE (RSAF) AND
SINGAPORE NAVY (RSN) DETECTING, LOCATING AND ATTACKING USN
GROUP TRANSITING SOUTH CHINA SEA AND WILL
INVOLVE COORDINATED ACTION BY RSAF A/C AND RSN PATROL BOATS.
USN A/C AND SHIPS WILL DEFEND/COUNTERATTACK IN IMMEDIATE TASK
FORCE AREA ONLY. RSN SHIPS WILL THEN CONDUCT MANEUVER DRILLS
WITH USN AND PROBABLY ENTER PORT IN COMPANY. SAF/MINDEF OFFICIALS
WILL BE ABOARD USN FLAGSHIPS AS OBSERVERS. THERE WILL BE BOTH
A PRE-BRIEF AND POST-EXERCISE CRITIQUE IN SINGAPORE.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S FINAL CONCURRENCE AND AUTHORIZATION
TO APPROACH GOS WITH VIEW TO DIRECTING ATTENTION TO ADVISABILITY
OF ITS INFORMING FPDPA PARTNERS AND INDONESIANS OF NATURE
GENERAL TIMING, LOCATION AND CONCEPT OF PROPOSED EXERCISE.
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Subject: PROPOSED AIR/SEA DEFENSE EXERCISE (MERLIAN) WITH SINGAPORE
TAGS: MILI SN
To: STATE INFO CANBERRA
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Type: TE

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